Accommodation Australia
A DIVISION OF THE AHA | NSW

Wednesday, 13 May 2026

BUDGET A ‘MIXED BAG’ FOR ACCOMMODATION HOTELS

The nation’s peak accommodation body has welcomed parts of last night’s Federal Budget, with Accommodation Australia CEO James Goodwin saying it really was a “mixed bag” for the sector.

Mr Goodwin welcomed permanent migration levels staying the same but said he had concerns about other aspects of the Budget including cuts to Tourism Australia.

“The entire industry is calling out for skilled migrants so we are pleased the Albanese Government has listened to the concerns of industry here and retained the settings for permanent migration,” Mr Goodwin said.

“But the tightening of controls on Working Holiday Makers – and the introduction of ballots to control numbers – at a time when the industry is desperate for workers is concerning.”

Mr Goodwin said reduced funding for Tourism Australia was also worrying.

“This comes at a time when we really should be increasing efforts to market Australia to the rest of the world as a safe travel destination,” he said.

“Funding will be cut by a significant $10 million next financial year - putting pressure on the organisation to be able to promote our amazing country to overseas markets,

“Obviously we are also frustrated about the $10 increase to the passenger movement charge on international travellers, and will be calling for any additional revenue collected to fund urgent border modernisation for more seamless processing at airports.

“That said, it was important to see $4.5 million over four years for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to continue monitoring competitiveness in the domestic airline sector including on prices, costs and profit.”

Mr Goodwin said it was also disappointing there was no confirmation the fuel excise cut will be extended beyond 30 June.

“This would be an important confidence boost for regional tourism and the ‘drive’ market,” he said.

“On another issue, the changes to negative gearing and CGT are likely to have an impact on investors listing their properties on the short-term rental market and could ease pressure on housing supply, especially in regional and coastal communities.”

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